



ON A BUDGET

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OUTPOST, 7A



PREP TRACK

Thompson Valley star Bradberry, Mountain View's Kufeld lead All-Area team

SPORTS, 1B

THOMPSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Budget sees hikes in cost of staffing

Official: More employees will be paid from the general fund, and their benefits will cost more

BY SHELLEY WIDHALM
Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

The items in the general fund for Thompson School District's proposed 2014-15 budget present a jigsaw puzzle of 200 pieces, as described by a school official Wednesday during the first of two budget community forums.

"My intention is not to go through all of these," said Steve Towne, chief financial officer for the district, to the nine people attending the forum at the Berthoud High School library that included school board members, staff and members of the community.

SEE TSD, 5A

Author Angelou dies at 86

BY HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maya Angelou's story awed millions. A childhood victim of rape, she broke through silence and shame to tell her tale in one of the most widely read memoirs of the 20th century. A black woman born into poverty and segregation, she recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history.

"I'm not modest," she told The Associated Press in 2013. "I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility, because humility comes from the inside out."

Angelou, a renaissance woman

SEE ANGELOU, 2A



NELL REDMOND / Associated Press file

Author Maya Angelou socializes during a 2010 garden party at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C. Angelou, author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," died Wednesday, Wake Forest University said. She was 86.



JENNY SPARKS / Loveland Reporter-Herald

Tom Moss, a Colorado Department of Transportation bridge inspector and engineer, wades through the Little Thompson River on Wednesday as he uses a laser meter that measures the distance from the river to the bottom of the girder while inspecting the southbound I-25 bridge. More than 400 state highway bridges that were affected by the September 2013 flood will be inspected by agency crews.

Flood bridges under watch

State going out to inspect all river crossings before the runoff gets in high gear

BY MONTE WHALEY
The Denver Post

JOHNSTOWN — One of 411 state highway bridges bruised by September flooding got a once-over Wednesday by a small group of state inspectors who aim to pinpoint structural problems before a big spring runoff.

A swollen Little Thompson River caused some erosion under the bridge, which spans southbound Interstate 25 just south of Johnstown. But it's not known yet how much bolstering the bridge needs, said Joshua Laipply, state bridge engineer for the Colorado Department of Transportation.

"We'll review the data and make some decisions depending on what we see," said Laipply, who

quickly pointed out the bridge currently doesn't pose any danger to motorists. "Bridges like this one, have foundations all the way to bedrock," he said.

"It's perfectly stable now. But, if we had another 500-year storm now, then I'd be worried."

At least four teams from CDOT, as well as bridge consultants hired by the agency, are examining the 411 bridges through June. They hope to discover and fix any safety and structural woes before high temperatures prompt mountain runoff, CDOT spokesman Bob Wilson said.

Most of the bridges are in the Denver-metro area and got tagged with minor damage during the flood. They were inspected shortly after the flood waters receded and deemed drivable with the idea they would get more attention this spring, Laipply said.

In all, about 1,000 bridges from Colorado Springs to Sterling were damaged in some way by the

SEE BRIDGES, 2A

Spotlight

Voters in California contemplate forming new, northern state

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Residents of California's largely rural, agrarian and politically conservative far northern counties long ago got used to feeling ignored in the state Capitol and out of sync with major urban areas.

The idea of forming their own state has been a topic among local secession dreamers for more than a century. Residents in two counties will have a chance to voice that sentiment next week.

Voters in Del Norte and Tehama, with a combined population of about 91,000, will decide Tuesday on an advisory measure that asks each county's board of supervisors to join a wider effort to form a 51st state named Jefferson.

Elected officials in Glenn, Modoc, Siskiyou and Yuba counties already voted to join the movement. Supervisors in Butte County will vote June 10, while local bodies in other northern counties are awaiting Tuesday's ballot results before deciding what to do.

— Associated Press

More Nation news on 9A >>>

Poudre foot above flood stage in Greeley

GREELEY — The Poudre River near Greeley was at nearly 9 feet, above the 8-foot flood stage, Wednesday morning, but receding.

Greeley's deputy director of water resources, Eric Reckentine, tells The Tribune it won't be the last time the water is high during this runoff season. Reckentine says officials will continue to monitor the Poudre.

The National Weather Service says minor flooding is forcing several road closures in Weld County.

— Associated Press

More Region news on 5A >>>

Weather forecast

High: 88
Low: 55
A t-storm around this afternoon

Full Forecast on 10B >>>

JUST WEIRD Deer leaps from Illinois overpass onto minivan

WEST DUNDEE, Ill. — A suburban Chicago woman is grateful her family is safe after a 200-pound deer leapt from an overpass, landing on their minivan as it traveled along an Illinois interstate.

Heidi Conner told The (Arlington Heights) Daily Herald the doe came to rest in the middle of the West Dundee family's Chevy on Sunday. She and her four children were traveling about 70 mph on the Jane Addams Tollway.

She says the accident was bizarre, adding "nobody can believe this deer fell from the sky."

— Associated Press

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